

Sheridan 6 LEMA

Local Enhanced Management Area-LEMA

A YEAR IN REVIEW; DECEMBER 31, 2013

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Local Enhanced Management Area- LEMA

With December 31st approaching, the Sheridan 6 LEMA concludes its first year of the 5 year allocation program set to continue through December 31st of 2017. The 99 square mile area included 185 irrigation wells and 10 non-irrigation wells.

As required in the, Order of Designation Approving the Sheridan 6 Local Enhanced Management Area Within Groundwater Management District No. 4, the “Advisory Committee shall produce an annual report providing a summary of its considerations, and shall transmit that report to GMD4 and to the Chief Engineer by December 31st of each year of the Sheridan 6 LEMA Period.” No.46, Pg.42.

The following summary consists of the November 12th 2013 first annual meeting of the Sheridan 6 Advisory Committee which took place in Hoxie Kansas, as well as updated information regarding the steps taken to complete the committee’s listed recommendations.

SD-6

TWP 7S-28W: Sections
19-21 and 28-33

TWP 7S-29W: Sections
4-9 and 16-36

TWP 7S-30W: Sections
19-36

TWP 8S-29W: Sections
1-18

TWP 8S-30W: Sections
1-18

TWP 8S-31W: Sections
22-27 and 34-36

November 12th 2013 Summary Notes

Present: Mitch Baalman, Brett Oelke, Dennis Rogers, Grant Gaede, Ray Luhman, Gary Moss, Sharon Munk, Stu Beckman, Kelly Stewart, Katherine Wilkins-Wells, Ron Ball, Roch Meier

-The Meeting took place at the First State Bank Building Meeting Room 801 Main St, Hoxie Kansas

The First Annual Sheridan 6 Advisory Committee Meeting was opened at 10:05am by Chairman Gary Moss. Introductions were given and GMD4 staff distributed a copy of the 41st page of the official LEMA Order, in which the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee are clearly listed. The suggested material for discussion included;

45. The Advisory Committee shall meet at least annually to consider the following:
- i. Water use data;
 - ii. Water table information;
 - iii. Economic Data;
 - iv. Whether the combining of allocations and the transfers of allocations have altered the geographic distribution of diversions and/or water use within the Sheridan 6 LEMA;
 - v. Whether the combining of allocations and the transfers of allocations have produced a concentration of diversions and/or water use within the Sheridan 6 LEMA;
 - vi. Violations, issues relating to violations, and metered data that relates to violations;
 - vii. New and preferable enhancement management options; and
 - viii. Other items deemed pertinent by the Advisory Committee.

GMD4 Provided Material:

The Groundwater Management District No. 4 staff provided the Advisory Committee with several diagrams and graphs providing additional information for reference during the required discussion points.

1. A diagram of the Sheridan 6 High Priority Area was provided, which indicated all affected wells of the HPA. Within the image one can see the five monitoring wells of the HPA that each takes hourly recordings of available water table data. This data spanned primarily from May 2012 to October of 2013.

2. A diagram indicating the locations of all current Umbrella Accounts throughout the HPA was provided, explaining how allocations may be moved from one location to another.

3. A Copy of the SD-6 LEMA Ledger; a publication written for the participating members of the existing SD-6 LEMA or those interested in current issues directly affecting the LEMA. This publication covers issues such as, up to date notifications, meter backup alternatives, and additional RMA available options.

4. An SD-6 Water Level Elevations Graph was provided, depicting what may happen to the levels during three scenarios spanning to the year 2066; 1. The entire district was to enter into a LEMA with an approximate 20% reduction, 2. SD-6 only was to have a LEMA, 3. If the entire district were to keep pumping water at current rates with no LEMA.

Advisory Committee Recommendations:

1. It was discussed that additional information and educational material was desired for the Sheridan 6-HPA regarding the availability of umbrella accounts and flexibility options. The decision was made to issue a SD-6 LEMA Ledger/Newsletter in order to address this issue, and to continue the Ledger throughout the duration of the LEMA.

2. The committee urged GMD4 staff and DWR, to create a list of meter backup alternatives that would be acceptable to the Division. Included suggestions were; power company records, photographic evidence with date and time notification, Ag data services, and the use of advanced meters which record this information digitally (if this meter has been approved by DWR). It was suggested that this also be included in the SD-6 LEMA Ledger/Newsletter.

3. The committee expressed the need for a representative from the Risk Management Agency to further explain limited crop irrigation insurance to the SD-6 HPA community. It was hoped that topics could include available options for the 2014 calendar year as well as specifically how enrollment will work. This is to be done in a community meeting environment, allowing for individuals to clarify any questions or concerns they may have. This will also appear in the SD-6 LEMA Ledger/Newsletter.

4. Due to the fact that annual water use reports are not due until March 1st of the following year, no water use data from 2013 was available at the time of the first SD-6 Advisory Committee Meeting on November 12th. Also, the annual observation wells are not measured until late December/early January. For these reasons the committee has urged that a second meeting take place between the months of March and June, and that this meeting requirement be added to the order. At this second SD-6 Advisory Committee Meeting, 2013 water use cards will have been successfully submitted and tabulated. This

will provide a much clearer look at the first year of the SD-6 LEMA, and how the use restriction was handled and abided by. At this time the committee will assess any additional suggestions or recommendations for the future years of the five year LEMA.

Recommendation Progress

At this time GMD4 staff and Advisory Committee members have worked to accomplish recommended adjustments to the SD-6 LEMA.

1. The Sheridan 6 LEMA Ledger/Newsletter has been re-established and the first issue was mailed as of December 9th.
2. A second annual SD-6 Advisory Committee meeting has been approved and tentatively scheduled for early March of 2014.
3. The USDA's Risk Management Agency will be making two separate visits in order to address Limited Irrigated Crop Insurance. One visit will be to the GMD4 Board of Directors in Colby, KS and one will be to the SD-6 Advisory Committee members and community members in Hoxie, KS. The presentation in Colby will take place on January 22nd 2014 during the GMD4 monthly board meeting. The presentation in Hoxie will take place on January 27th, 2014 at 5:00 pm (CST) at the First State Bank at 801 Main St. Hoxie, KS.